Claims

We claim:

1. In a data processing system having memory means and processing means, a method, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating and storing in the memory means a first directory entry for a file wherein the first directory holds a first filename for the file and information about the file;

(b) creating and storing in the memory means a second directory entry for the file wherein the second directory entry holds at least one portion of a second filename having a fixed number of characters and information about the file; and

(c) accessing one of the first or second directory entries in the memory means to gain access to the information about the file that is contained in the accessed one of the first or second directory entries.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the second filename contains more characters than the first filename.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of creating and storing in the memory means a sequence of at least one additional directory entry for holding a next sequential portion of the long filename.

4. The method as recited in claim 3 wherein each additional directory entry may hold only a fixed number of characters of the long filename and how many additional directory entries are created and stored in the memory means is dictated by how many additional directory entries are required to store characters of the long filename which are not already stored in the second directory entry.

5.   The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the step of creating and storing in the memory means at least one additional directory entry for the long filename further comprises the step of creating and storing in the memory means a plurality of additional directory entries.

6.   The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the step of creating and storing in the memory means the second directory entry further comprises the step of providing a signature in the second directory entry that identifies that the second directory entry holds the first portion of the long filename.

7.   The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the step of creating and storing in the memory means at least one additional directory entry for the long filename further comprises the step of providing a signature in each additional directory entry that identifies which portion of the long filename the additional directory entry holds.

8.   The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the step of creating and storing in memory means at least one additional directory entry for the long filename further comprises the step of providing a checksum of the first filename in each additional directory entry.

9.   A data processing system, comprises:
(a)   a memory holding
      (i) a first directory entry for a file, said first directory entry including a first filename for the file;
      (ii) a second directory entry for the file, said second directory entry including a second filename for the file that includes more characters than the short filename;
      (iii) an operating system; and

(b) a processor for running the operating system and accessing at least one of said first directory entry or said second directory to locate the file.

10. In a data processing system having a memory, a method, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a file and assigning the file a user specified long filename;

(b) manipulating the long filename with the data processing system to create a short filename of fewer characters;

(c) storing both the long filename and the short filename in the memory, so that the file may be accessed by either the long filename or the short filename.

11. In a data processing system having a processor running an operating system and a memory means storing the operating system, a method, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing in the memory means a first directory entry for a file wherein the first directory entry holds a short filename for the file, said short filename including at most a maximum number of characters that is permissible by an application program;

(b) storing in the memory means a second directory entry for the file wherein the second directory entry holds at least a first portion of a long filename for the file, said long filename including a greater number of characters than the maximum number of characters that is permissible by the application program; and

(c) running the application program on the processor that identifies the file by the short filename.

12. The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the step of storing the second directory further comprises the step of storing a checksum of the short filename in the second directory entry.

13. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of storing at least one additional directory entry holding a next portion of the long filename in the memory means.

14. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of storing at least one additional directory entry further comprises the step of storing a checksum of the short filename in the additional directory entry.

15. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of storing at least one additional directory entry further comprises the step of storing a signature that uniquely identifies which portion of the long filename is stored in the additional directory entry.

16. In a data processing system having a processor and a memory means storing the operating system, a method, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing in the memory means a first directory entry for a file wherein the first directory entry holds a short filename for the file, said short filename including at most a maximum number of characters that is permissible by the operating system;

(b) storing in the memory means a second directory entry for the file wherein the second directory entry holds a long filename for the file, said long filename including more than the maximum number of characters that is permissible by the operating system; and

(c) accessing the first directory entry with the operating system to locate the file.

17. The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising the step of accessing the second directory entry with an application program to locate the file.

18. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the second directory entry includes an attributes field which may be set to make the second directory entry invisible to the operating system and the step of storing the second directory entry further comprises the step of setting the attributes field so that the second directory entry is invisible to the operating system.

19. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the step of storing the second directory entry further comprises the step of storing a checksum of the short filename in the second directory entry.

20. The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising the step of storing at least one additional directory entry holding a next portion of the long filename in the memory means.

21. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of storing at least one additional directory entry further comprises the step of storing a checksum of the short filename in the additional directory entry.

22. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of storing at least one additional directory entry further comprises the step of storing a signature that uniquely identifies which portion of the long filename is stored in the additional directory entry.